

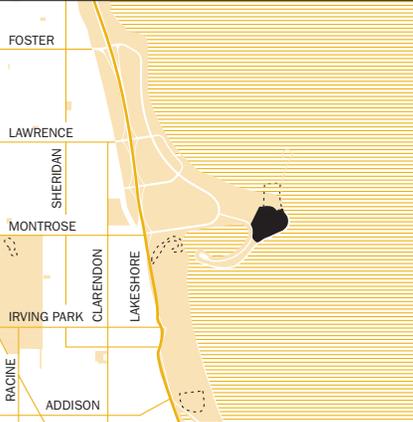
LINCOLN PARK—  
MONTROSE POINT BIRD SANCTUARY

For decades, Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary has drawn people from all over the region and nearby states to witness the profusion of migrating songbirds found here spring and fall. Originally, what drew birders was the "Magic Hedge," a 150-foot former fence line that was left unmowed and untended more from neglect than from a specific intent to attract birds. But because of the way Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary thrusts out into Lake Michigan, it is a logical landing place for exhausted songbirds. When birds arrived and found few choices for shelter and food, they tended to congregate at this particular hedge.

In recent years, Eurasian grasses, common milkweed and thistle were the most common plants in the meadow rather than classic prairie plants. Plans are in place to improve the diversity of plant life in the meadow, and in 2004, about a third of it was planted to native species. On the south side of the meadow is a limestone-edged bird bath fed by city water, surrounded by wetland vegetation **3**. The southern edge of the site is scheduled to be seeded with prairie plants in spring 2006 **4**.

Immediately north of Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary by the lake to the north is a restoration of a sand dune environment (site 96, p. 83), with native dune grasses and other vegetation.

In the mid-1930s, Alfred Caldwell created a plan for the area that conveyed what he called a "naturalistic effect" with sweeping meadow spaces and layered native plant materials emphasizing the long view. In the late 1990s, the Chicago Park District undertook an ambitious project to expand habitat for birds while retaining the historic integrity of the site. Hundreds of trees and shrubs were planted.



Lincoln Park—  
Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary



ADDRESS 4400 N Simonds Ave  
OWNER Chicago Park District  
ACREAGE 13.40

- HABITATS
- 1** Forest / Woodland
  - 2** Prairie / Grassland
  - 3** Wetland
  - 4** Potential Habitat

DIRECTIONS Exit Lake Shore Drive at Montrose Avenue and head east. Follow the road to the point where it starts to curve to the right (south). Park along there, and walk up the slope; signs mark the Magic Hedge and other features.

